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For Immediate Release
April 22, 2004

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Sen. McManus relieved to see water protection trump politics

LANSING – Measures that would protect the state’s freshwater and groundwater resources by requiring water-discharge permit holders pay an annual fee are expected to be signed into law Thursday, announced Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau.

“The Legislature has worked very hard to develop a fee structure that will adequately and fairly fund these permit programs,” McManus said. “I am relieved to hear the governor is going to put Michigan’s environment ahead of politics and join our effort to protect Michigan’s freshwater resources.”

Senate Bill 252 establishes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System fund and requires permit holders to pay an application and annual permit fee based on designations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Senate Bill 560 establishes a fee structure for groundwater discharge. Money collected will be used to fund groundwater monitoring.

“The compromises we reached in the Legislature represent a giant leap forward for Michigan’s freshwater resources,” McManus said. “Now that these measures have been signed into law, the Department of Environmental Quality can continue their important work on surface water and groundwater discharge without interruption.”

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